

Michael Hoffman

Assistant Professor
Department of Political Science
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Education

Princeton University Princeton, New Jersey
Ph.D., Politics 2016

- Dissertation Committee Members: Amaney Jamal (chair), Chris Achen, Carles Boix
- Winner of Aaron Wildavsky Award for Best Dissertation in Religion and Politics, American Political Science Association

M.A., Politics 2012

University of Notre Dame Notre Dame, Indiana

B.A., Political Science and Arabic Studies 2010

- Thesis: "Religion, Conflict, and Regimes:
A Two-Branch Model of Non-Democracy"

**American University in Beirut,
Center for Arabic and Middle East Studies** Beirut, Lebanon
Certificate in Advanced Intensive Arabic 2011

Book Project

Faith in Numbers: How Religion Promotes and Undermines Democracy

Why does religion sometimes increase support for democracy and sometimes do just the opposite? In this project, I present a theory of religion, group interest, and democracy. Focusing on communal religion, I demonstrate that the effect of communal prayer on support for democracy depends on the interests of the religious group in question. For members of groups who would benefit from democracy, communal prayer increases support for democratic institutions; for citizens whose groups would lose privileges in the event of democratic reforms, the opposite effect is present. I test these claims both observationally and experimentally using a variety of data sources, including an original nationally-representative survey in Lebanon. I find that communal religion increases the salience of sectarian identity, and therefore pushes respondents' regime attitudes into closer alignment with the interests of their sect.

Awards and Fellowships

Aaron Wildavsky Award for Best Dissertation
in Religion and Politics, American Political Science Association 2018

Large Social Sciences Research Grant,
Institute for Scholarship in the Liberal Arts (University of Notre Dame), \$15,000 2017

Research Grant, Kellogg Institute (University of Notre Dame), \$20,000 2017

Faculty Research Support Program Initiation Grant (University of Notre Dame), \$10,000 2017

Fellowship of Woodrow Wilson Scholars 2014-2016

National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship 2010-2013

Center for Study of Religion Graduate Research Fellowship (Princeton University)	2013-2016
Research Grant, Mamdouha S. Bobst Center for Peace and Justice, Princeton University	2010-2013
Helen Kellogg Institute Prize for Best Senior Thesis in Comparative Politics, University of Notre Dame	2010
Phi Beta Kappa	2010
Pi Sigma Alpha	2008

Peer-Reviewed Articles

- “Religion, Sectarianism, and Democracy: Theory and Evidence from Lebanon,” accepted at *Political Behavior*.
- “Religion and Government Legitimacy,” *Oxford Encyclopedia of Politics and Religion* (2018).
- “The Diverse Effects of Diversity on Democracy,” *British Journal of Political Science* (Lead Article) 48:2 (2018), pp. 283-314 (with John Gerring and Dominic Zarecki).
- “Communal Religious Practice and Support for Armed Parties: Evidence from Lebanon”, *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 61:4 (2017), pp. 869-902 (with Elizabeth Nugent).
- “Religion in the Arab Spring: Between Two Competing Narratives,” *Journal of Politics* (Lead Article) 76:3 (2014), pp. 593-606 (with Amaney Jamal).
- “The Youth and the Arab Spring: Cohort Differences and Similarities,” *Middle East Law and Governance* 4:1 (2012), pp. 168-188 (with Amaney Jamal).
- “Military Extrication and Temporary Democracy: The Case of Pakistan,” *Democratization* 18:1 (2011), pp. 75-99.

Book Chapters and Reviews

- Review of Joanne Nucho, *Everyday Sectarianism in Urban Lebanon: Infrastructures, Public Services, and Power* (Princeton University Press, 2016), in *Bustan: The Middle East Book Review* 9:1 (2018), pp. 89-93.
- “Arab Muslim Attitudes toward Religious Minorities,” in Allen D. Hertzke and Timothy Samuel Shah, eds., *Christianity and Freedom, Volume II: Contemporary Perspectives*. New York: Cambridge University Press (2016). (with Amaney Jamal).
- “Political Attitudes of Youth Cohorts,” in Marc Lynch, ed., *The Arab Uprisings Explained: New Contentious Politics in the Middle East*. New York: Columbia University Press (2014). (with Amaney Jamal).

Working Papers and Presentations

- “Religion and Tolerance of Minority Sects in the Arab World,” under review.
- “What Shapes Support for Democracy in the Middle East? An Experimental Approach,” (with Nathanael Sumaktoyo and M. Tahir Kilavuz)
- “Abortion Attitudes and Catholic Partisanship,” (with Matthew Tokeshi, 2012).

- “Fertility and Economic Development in the Muslim World,” (with Amaney Jamal, Irfan Nooruddin, and Michael Ross, 2011).
- “Religion, Gender, and Political Participation in Africa: Lessons from Nigeria, Senegal and Uganda,” presented at the annual meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL, April 4, 2009 (with Robert Dowd).

Teaching

- *Identity Politics*: Fall 2017 (freshman seminar); Spring 2018 (senior seminar)
- *Politics of the Middle East*: Spring 2017, Fall 2017, Spring 2018, Spring 2019
- *Comparative Political Behavior* (graduate): Spring 2017
- *Comparative Politics Field Seminar* (graduate): Fall 2018
- *Religion and Politics in the Middle East* (junior seminar): Fall 2016
- Teaching assistant for Evan Lieberman (Princeton University), *The Politics of Development*: Spring 2013
- Teaching assistant for Deniz Aksoy (Princeton University), *Comparative Ethnic Conflict*: Fall 2013

Professional Service

- Reviewer for *American Political Science Review*, *American Journal of Political Science*, *Journal of Politics*, *British Journal of Political Science*, *World Politics*, *Comparative Political Studies*, *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, *Political Research Quarterly*, *Political Behavior*, *Comparative Politics*, *Middle East Law and Governance*, *Global Society*, *Journal of North African Studies*, *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, *Politics, Groups, and Identities*, *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Politics*, *Kellogg Institute Working Paper Series*
- Editorial Board, *Political Behavior* (2019-)
- Country Expert, Yemen, *Varieties of Democracy Project* (2011)
- Author of Iraq country report for second wave of Arab Barometer survey (2012)

Skills

- Languages
 - English (native)
 - Modern Standard Arabic (intermediate)
 - Levantine Arabic (basic)
 - French (intermediate)
- Software
 - Statistical: R, Stata, SPSS, Stan
 - Programming: Visual Basic, VBA
 - Other: HTML, Access, SQL, L^AT_EX

Professional Memberships

- American Political Science Association
- Midwest Political Science Association
- Middle East Studies Association
- Association for Analytic Learning about Islam and Muslim Societies (AALIMS)